

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)
MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 17, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. James R. Gowans

Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. F. Jay Seegmiller
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox
Rep. Bradley A. Winn

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Stirling, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Urquhart called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Seegmiller moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Madsen and Rep. Wilcox were absent for the vote.

2. Natural Gas Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure

Mr. Rey Butcher and Mr. Dale Sevy, Questar Corporation, distributed "Expansion in Utah" and commented about options for refueling stations.

Mr. Barrie L. McKay, Director of Public Affairs, Questar Corporation, responded to committee members' questions.

Ms. Dianne Nielson, Governor's Energy Advisor, State of Utah, discussed the benefits of using natural gas as a means of improving air quality within the state.

3. Utah Renewable Energy Zone Task Force Report

Ms. Nielson gave a presentation covering the objectives of the Task Force, including the identification of renewable energy zones, cost-effective generation potential, market strategies to facilitate transmission planning and permits for renewable energy projects.

Ms. Shelley Gordon Teuscher, Director of Government Relations, Parsons Behle & Latimer, representing First Wind, responded to committee members' questions.

4. Federal Stimulus Monies for Utility Upgrades

Staff distributed "Net Metering-Utah."

Ms. Carol Hunter, Vice President, Rocky Mountain Power, gave a presentation covering net metering issues. She explained that although net metering has improved customer service, it has not been cost effective. Ms. Hunter also commented on a review of net metering options for taxable and non taxable commercial entities and administration of a solar incentive program.

Sen. Urquhart asked that the issues of capacity and efficiency be addressed at the next meeting.

5. Department of Technology Services

Mr. Stephen Fletcher, CIO and Executive Director, Department of Technology Services, distributed and presented "DTS Optimization Initiatives." He also distributed "2009-2012 Strategic Plan."

6. Universal Service Fund: Expand Fund Use to Include Other Types of Telecommunications

Mr. Ted Boyer, Chairman, and Mr. Ron Allen, Commissioner, Public Service Commission, discussed the purpose and use of the Universal Service Fund.

Mr. Eric Isom, Government Affairs Director, Qwest, talked about the need for internet access and expansion of broadband availability throughout the state.

Mr. Steve Mecham, Attorney, representing the Utah Rural Telephone Association, discussed the creation of the Universal Service Fund. Mr. Mecham opposed expanded usage of the fund.

Mr. Jerry Oldroyd, Attorney, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, said that broadband is not a telecommunications service, but an information service, and therefore should not be included in an expansion of the fund.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.